



# THE DEMHS ADVISOR

DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
860-256-0800 [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs)

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Issue 1

## CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)

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As of January 1, 2005, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) was formed under PA 04-219, charged to develop, administer, and coordinate a comprehensive statewide Emergency Management and Homeland Security program to encompass all human-made and natural hazards. DEMHS is responsible for utilizing and coordinating all available resources within state government, as well as, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response plans to incidents to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Connecticut. DEMHS has also been mandated to work closely with the DEMHS Coordinating Council, composed of 26 individuals appointed by the Legislature and Governor to advise on communications and cooperation with local, federal and state authorities. DEMHS supports the 169 Connecticut local communities and the two tribal nations in emergency planning and response through federal homeland security grants and other funding for equipment, training and exercises.

### WHAT'S NEW:

**GRANT UPDATE:** FY2004 Quarterly Request Packages for towns utilizing DEMHS as administrative agent are due July 15, 2005. Contact your municipal representative to discuss the content of the submission. For technical assistance in completing the package, call 860-256-0900.

*FEMA Evaluated Norwich  
Host Community Exercise  
July 30, 2005*

### Commissioner Welcome

*By James M. Thomas*

We hope you enjoy this very first edition of the DEMHS Advisor. As you are aware the CT Office of Emergency Management and the Division of Homeland Security were merged into one larger State department to provide more effective and more efficient services to all our public safety and emergency management partners. This newsletter is just one of the new initiatives our department hopes will help us attain this goal. We plan on providing you with the latest grant and funding news, training opportunities, drills and exercise schedules, and federal, state and local initiatives. We would also like to hear from you, if you have a story to share please submit it to [maryrose.duberek@po.state.ct.us](mailto:maryrose.duberek@po.state.ct.us). Thank you for your interest in DEMHS and for your continued support and dedication to the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

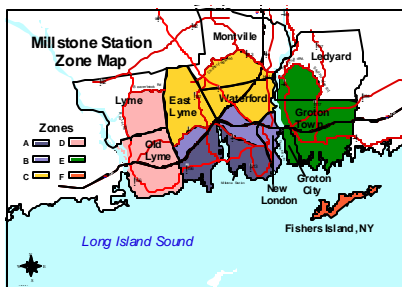
## CT's Radiological Emergency Response Plan

### *By Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit*

***DEMHS is responsible for the development, evaluation and implementation the State's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Response Plan (RERP) and program.***

Just as there are specific plans in place for dealing with natural emergencies such as hurricanes, earthquakes and winter storms, plans are developed for technological hazards, which includes the potential of nuclear power plant incidents. There are two federal agencies that oversee the safety of nuclear emergency preparedness. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for overseeing on-site nuclear power plant operations and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves the off-site plans and procedures at the state and local level. FEMA also evaluates the demonstration of plan performance during federally required exercises. FEMA originally approved the Connecticut Radiological Emergency Response Plan in 1984 for both Millstone and the then operating Haddam Neck (Connecticut Yankee) Nuclear Power Station and periodically reviews that approval rating.

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is responsible for the development, evaluation and implementation the State's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Response Plan (RERP) and program. This plan would be used to protect the public in the unlikely event of a nuclear power plant incident at either the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford, Connecticut or Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, New York. The plan incorporates the Millstone emergency planning zone (EPZ) (also known as the plume exposure pathway), the approximate 10-mile radius of Millstone Station and the 50-mile ingestion pathway zone for both Millstone and Indian Point. The plan outlines relationships and communication links between the local, state and federal agencies and provides detailed procedures for state and local public safety officials to take to respond to a nuclear emergency.



Millstone Emergency Planning Zone Map

The Millstone EPZ has nine (9) Connecticut communities and one (1) New York community. The Connecticut EPZ communities include East Lyme, Groton City, Town of Groton, Ledyard, Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme and Waterford. In New York, the Hamlet of Fishers Island is within the Millstone EPZ. The Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) in New York State, while also physically located within 10-miles of Millstone, is a non-residential federal facility. There are 125,000 permanent residents in the 10-mile planning zone and up to 207, 000 people estimated to be in the planning zone on winter weekdays (workers, college students, etc.). The REP plan addresses the actions necessary to provide for the safety and security of all these individuals and to the entire state.

The RERP is updated regularly to meet new federal requirements or when innovative ideas lead to better or more streamlined procedures. Development of this plan requires extensive knowledge of the federal regulations that guide the REP program in addition to state statutes that are used to promulgate the program. Local public emergency management directors provide valuable input into the planning process and are ultimately responsible for carrying out the local response to the emergency.

To test the effectiveness of the emergency plans state, local and Millstone emergency planning officials hold an annual emergency exercise. These exercises are federally evaluated by FEMA every two years. The last FEMA evaluated plume and ingestion exposure pathway exercise, held September 2004 was an intense and successful three day event.

Officials from the state and local communities, along with utility personnel, participate in these exercises. Through an elaborately developed accident scenario, these exercises test the ability of station personnel to assess an emergency situation and bring it under control in a manner that protects the public. The station is tested on their ability to alert federal, state and local officials within approximately 15 minutes of an incident classification. During these exercises state and local officials perform notification procedures, assess the station's data and make appropriate decisions on public protective actions. These protective actions include "evacuation", "take shelter" and "ingest potassium iodide (KI)", activation of the state media center and conducting media briefings to keep the public informed, and dispatching highly trained state field team members to sample the air, water and vegetation.

Copies of the plan are distributed to the Millstone emergency planning zone and host communities, state and federal agencies, neighboring states and the two Tribal Nations. Individuals interested in reading the Connecticut RERP can visit any State Library.

Part of Connecticut's Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) establishes five Host Communities to receive evacuees from the communities surrounding Millstone Nuclear Power Station. When the plan is activated, local first responders would set up a Reception Center where people and vehicles would be monitored for radioactive contamination and, if necessary, decontaminated.

Local Health Department staff members would be on hand to supervise the distribution of Potassium Iodide (KI), and the Reception Center would provide a place for families to reunite if separated during the evacuation process. Representatives from the Red Cross would be available to provide shelter information, and transportation to shelters provided for evacuees who may have arrived without their own vehicles.



*Pages 2 & 3 of the yellow pages in the phone directories serving the Millstone communities contain emergency instructions in the event of an incident at Millstone Station in Waterford.*

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reading the  
Connecticut RERP  
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***"Our firefighters are extremely well trained, and take a lot of pride in our skills; we feel we can handle any situation. However, we are also open to new training opportunities in the evolution of the decon trailers. We never know when a situation will call for different skills."***

***- Chief Kenneth J. Scandariato,  
Norwich FD***

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This Host Community portion of the RERP is evaluated every year in a different Host Community by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a division of the Federal Department of Homeland Security. This portion of the plan is exercised out of sequence of the larger portion of the plan, because it is so involved and labor intensive. The protection of the health and safety of evacuees is critical and deserves careful training, exercising and evaluation. This summer, the Host Community of Norwich will be demonstrating the set-up of the Reception Center, and simulating the registration, monitoring, and decontamination of volunteer evacuees. This full scale exercise will involve the participation and dedication of many different players. Norwich Emergency Management Director Gene Arters will operate the Emergency Operations Center and Roland Frechette will act as Reception Center Manager. All Norwich Fire Departments (Taftville, East Great Plains, Yantic, Laurel Hill, Central Districts and Occum) and The Mohegan Tribal Nation Fire Department will be simulating monitoring and decontamination. Representatives from the Norwich Social Services Department, Uncas Health District and the American Red Cross will also be participating.

In the past, the Norwich reception center used the building's shower facilities for the decontamination of men and women. During this year's exercise, Norwich will be the first Host Community to demonstrate the use of specially designed Decontamination Trailers for the decontamination of evacuees. These trailers were purchased with Homeland Security funding and distributed to a number of communities around the state. Norwich Fire Department's HAZMAT team maintains their decon trailers and will man and supervise the decontamination process, following strict guidelines set forth in the plan. Chief Kenneth J. Scandariato of the Norwich Fire Department is pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this exercise. "Our firefighters are extremely well trained, and take a lot of pride in our skills; we feel we can handle any situation. However, we are also open to new training opportunities in the evolution of the decon trailers. We never know when a situation will call for different skills." Chief Scandariato also mentioned that another benefit of this exercise is the on-site training in a different setting.



Decontamination Trailer

## REP Staff

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) staff consists of a Supervisor – Deborah Ferrari and 3 Emergency Preparedness Program Specialists – Mary Rose Duberek, Cynthia Cyr and Peter Sandgren.

Deborah Ferrari has over 20 years of emergency management experience and has been the Supervisor of the REP Department for many of those years. Over the years, Deb has seen big changes in the REP program – especially in the increasing federal requirements. The program's evolution included the requirement to conduct an annual full-scale, evaluated exercise for Millstone and Connecticut Yankee's (CY) Nuclear Power Plants; being involved in the decommissioning efforts of CY; and through the post-9/11 heightened public concerns over terrorism and spent fuel at power plants. "I'm very impressed with the men and women (volunteers and paid emergency workers) who train hard and conduct regular drills and exercises to ensure the safety of Connecticut's residents and visitors around the Millstone emergency planning zone," said Deb Ferrari. Deb is also very proud of her REP staff's "can do" attitude and often tells people that they are the best of the best!

Mary Rose Duberek has worked for the State of Connecticut for 15 years – 7 of which have been with our agency. Mary Rose has a degree in Communications and has been an extreme asset for the agency in the area of public information and in the media center during REP exercises and during actual emergencies. Mary Rose played a very large role in the state's KI distribution program in 2002, so much so that her nickname was "Mary KI". She also has an avid interest in working with the State Department of Agriculture to establish a state program for animals in times of emergencies. When Mary Rose started in the agency she worked diligently on recruiting and re-establishing connections with state agency public information officers (PIOs) for the Governor's Emergency Communications Team. She has worked in all aspects of the media/public information program and has done an excellent job of improving the information that is provided to the public.

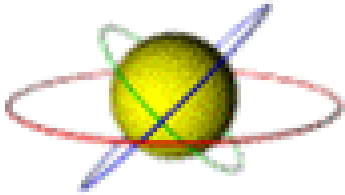
Cindy Cyr came to our agency in 2002 and has helped our department immensely with her computer expertise. She has accomplished major projects, such as training state agencies on sampling and monitoring procedures and extensive work on the latest CD version of our REP plan revision. She recently was named the Region One (New England) Representative on the National REP Conference Steering Committee. She was the lead program manager for the three-day Millstone Ingestion Pathway exercise in 2004. This federally evaluated exercise took almost 2 years in which to prepare. Cindy conducted a Federal Outreach training forum for state, local, federal agencies and contiguous states, to train on field sampling and monitoring procedures.

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***"I'm very impressed with the men and women (volunteers and paid emergency workers) who train hard and conduct regular drills and exercises to ensure the safety of Connecticut's residents and visitors around the Millstone emergency planning zone."***  
***- Deborah Ferrari, REP program supervisor***

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Peter Sandgren came to our agency by way of the University of Connecticut. His experience in teaching has been an asset to the REP program, and since 1998 he has conducted radiological training on loan from the Training Department. He has trained hundreds of first responders and National Guard soldiers around the state. In 2004, Peter began working full time for the REP Department. He is also the agency's geographic information system (GIS) officer, and has developed many maps over the years for the Millstone program as well as other natural disaster emergencies and exercises. He recently served as the agency's GIS coordinator for TOPOFF 3. During our three-day Ingestion Pathway Exercise in 2004 he worked closely with state agencies, local municipalities and federal agencies to develop maps necessary to support the exercise.



### In General

The REP program follows national nuclear power plant standards prescribed by FEMA and the NRC. These federal requirements and regulations are highly pre-scripted and must be substantiated in writing by each state that they are accomplished every year. Although it is a huge challenge to follow all of the federal requirements and ensure that the plan, exercises, training and public information materials are all completed each calendar year, this rigid format also helps us to constantly strive to develop fresh and innovative ways to improve our training and public education program. Currently the REP department is working on special initiatives, above federal requirements, for CT Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) clients and deaf and hearing impaired individuals. Our REP program also participates in a national conference of all state, local and utility REP counterparts held annually. During these conferences, state and local participants have a chance to discuss new techniques that have worked well for them and federal regulators introduce new or impending changes to the program. Connecticut, for example, was the first state to conduct a mass-mailing of Potassium Iodide (KI) with such a large population. Our packaging of KI tablets and coordination with other state agencies on the public information campaign was the most complex in the country. Mary Rose Duberek and the Director of the Radiation Division of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been guest speakers at many national, state and federal venues.

For more information on CT' REP program visit our website and click on ***Emergency Management*** then click on ***Radiological Preparedness***.



Millstone Power Station in Waterford, CT

## DEMHS Training Calendar

For full course descriptions, prerequisites, times and location visit our website [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs) and click on ***Check the Calendar***. For more information or to register contact our State Training Officer, **Paul Benyeda** at 860-566-8517 or email Paul at [paul.benyeda@po.state.ct.us](mailto:paul.benyeda@po.state.ct.us).

### July

#### **July 12**

ICS Senior Officials Workshop

#### **July 12**

CAMEO Train the Trainer

*(Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations)*

#### **July 19, 20 or 21**

Incident management/Unified Command for WMD Incidents

### August

#### **August 8**

WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness course

#### **August 9**

Radiological/Nuclear Responder Operation

#### **August 9**

WMD Crime Scene Management for Emergency Responders

#### **August 10**

WMD HazMat Evidence Collection